

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of the Claims:

Claims 1-35 (cancelled)

Claim 36 (cancelled)

37. (currently amended) The catalyst/catalyst carrier according to Claim 36 75 wherein the aluminium content is less than 0.03% by weight.

38. (currently amended) The catalyst/catalyst carrier according to any one of Claims 36 75 or 37 wherein said lattice layer silicate is a smectite.

39. (currently amended) The catalyst/catalyst carrier according to any one of Claims 36 75 or 37 wherein said lattice-layer silicate has a montmorillonite structure.

40. (currently amended) The catalyst/catalyst carrier according to any one of Claims 36 75 or 37 wherein the cumulative pore volume is between 0.2 and 0.9 ml/g.

41. (currently amended) The catalyst/catalyst carrier according to Claim 40 wherein the cumulative pore volume is between 0.6 and 0.7 ml/g.

42. (currently amended) The catalyst/catalyst carrier according to any one of Claims 36 75 or 37 in the shape of a spherical body.

43. (currently amended) The catalyst/catalyst carrier according to Claim 42 wherein said spherical body comprises a ball.

44. (currently amended) The catalyst/catalyst carrier according to Claim 42 wherein said spherical body has a diameter of between 1 and 10 mm.

45. (currently amended) The catalyst/catalyst carrier according to Claim 44 wherein said spherical body has a diameter of between 4 and 6 mm.

46. (currently amended) The catalyst/carrier carrier according to any one of ~~Claims~~ 36 75 or 37 wherein the pressure resistance is at least 10 N/mm.

47. (currently amended) The catalyst/catalyst carrier according to Claim 46 wherein the pressure resistance is at least 20 N/mm.

48. (currently amended) A method of producing a catalyst/catalyst carrier containing less than 0.3% by weight aluminium comprising impregnating a lattice-layer silicate with an acid, hydrothermally treating the acid-impregnated lattice-layer silicate, and washing the hydrothermally treated, acid-impregnated, lattice-layer silicate with a wash solution selected from the group consisting of acidic solutions, basic solutions, or neutral solutions.

49. **(previously added)** The process according to Claim 48 wherein said neutral solution is water.

50. **(previously added)** The process according to any one of Claims 48 or 49 wherein said acid comprises a mineral acid.

51. **(previously added)** The process according to Claim 50 wherein said mineral acid comprises phosphoric acid.

52. **(previously added)** The process according to any one of Claims 48 or 49 wherein said hydrothermal treatment is conducted at a temperature of between 160 and 300°C and a partial water vapor pressure of between 4 and 80 bar_{abs}.

53. **(currently amended)** The catalyst/catalyst carrier according to Claim 51 wherein said hydrothermal treatment is conducted at a temperature of between 220 and 260°C and a partial water vapor pressure of between 16 and 25 bar_{abs}.

54. **(currently amended)** The catalyst/catalyst carrier of any one of Claims 48 or 49 wherein said hydrothermal treatment is conducted, at least in part, during the use of said catalyst carrier in a hydration reaction.

55. **(previously added)** The process according to any one of Claims 48 or 49 wherein said washing takes place at a temperature of between 20 and 100°C.

56. **(previously added)** The process according to Claim 55 wherein said washing takes place at a temperature of between 70 and 90°C.

57. **(previously added)** The process according to any one of Claims 48 or 49 wherein said washing solution comprises hydrochloric acid.

58. **(previously added)** The process according to any one of Claims 48 or 49 wherein the washed, hydrothermally treated, acid-impregnated, lattice-layer silicate is rinsed with water.

59. **(previously added)** The process according to any one of Claims 48 or 49 wherein said washing solution comprises water containing up to 30 parts of concentrated hydrochloric acid.

60. **(previously added)** The process according to Claim 58 wherein said rinsing is conducted until the rinsing water is neutral.

61. **(previously added)** The process according to any one of Claims 48 or 49 wherein said lattice-layer silicate is purified by burning off adhering organic carbon-containing compounds at a temperature of between 300 and 1000°C prior to any of the steps set forth in Claim 48.

62. (currently amended) A catalyst/catalyst carrier produced by the process according to any one of Claims 48 or 49.

Claims 63-73 (cancelled)

74. (currently amended) A catalyst/catalyst carrier according to any one of Claims 48 or 49 having at least partially a cristobalite-like structure.--

75. (new) A catalyst/catalyst carrier comprising an aluminum content of less than 0.3% by weight, said catalyst/catalyst carrier being obtained from layer-lattice silicates which contain aluminum by a dealuminating process.